the basis of prevailing agro-climatic conditions and farming systems.

As suggested by QRT, the State and Zonal level Orientation Training cum Workshops were organised to implement these suggestions for improving the functioning of KVKs

Death Stalks Starved Bolangir

2897. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in "The Hindustan Times" date the 12th February, 1997 under the caption "Death Stalks Starved Bolangir";

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of India have requested the National Human Rights Commission to enquire into the reported starvation deaths in Bolangir district. A Team of Officers from the Commission undertook a visit of the State on 12—14th December, 1996. Government have not received any report from the Commission in this regard so far.

Setting up of Indian council of Agricultural Research Centre in Gujarat

2898. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Centre of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has been set up in Gujarat, during the last two yars;

(b) if not, reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to set up one such Research Centre in the State in the near future; and

(d) if so, the place where it is likely to be set-up?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) An Agricultural Research Centre on All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on White Grub has been set up at Anand Campus of Gujarat Agricultural University w.e.f. 1.10.95.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Since there are already 2 National Research Centres for Groundnut and for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants and 46 Centres/Regional Stations of AIRCRPs set up in Gujarat State, there is no proposal at present to set up new Research Centre in near future.

(d) Question does not arise.

Fertilizer Subsidy to the States

2899. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Fertilizer subsidy released to the different States of the country, particularly Punjab, for farmers during the years 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the details thereof; State-wise;

(c) whether the entire amount of subsidy has been utilized by each State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons for non-utilisation of the aforesaid amount?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) At present, subsidy is given on urea which is under Statutory Price Control and subsidy is given to the manufacturing units and importers and not to the States. In addition, concession is given on sale of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers to the farmers. Reimbursement of concession on sale of these P&K fertilizers is made not to the States but to the fertilizer suppliers on the basis of

verification reports of sales received from States. On this basis State-wise details of payments made during 1995-96 are given in the Statement (*See* below). The details of payments made during 1996-97 will be known after 31.3.97.

(c) and (d) This is only the reimbursement of the amount of concession to the fertilizer suppliers made on the sale of decontrolled Phosphatic & Potassic Fertilizers to the farmers, on the the basis of certified reports of sales received from concerned States/UTs.

Statement

Concessional Sale of Decontrolled Phosphatic and Potassic Fertilisers—Payments Made During 1995-96

(Position as on 31.3.96)

States	Total Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)
Andhra Pradesh	7257.85
Karnataka	3863.30
Kerala	506.77
Tamil Nadu	4528.69
Pondicherry	122.67
Gujarat	3791.55
Madhya Pradesh	3179.57
Maharashtra	7091.59
Rajasthan	1601.77
Goa	36.36
Haryana	865.49
Punjab	2191.10
Uttar Pradesh	7395.58
Himachal Pradesh	76.28
Jammu & Kashmir	40.90
Delhi	6.58
Bihar	1433.05
Orissa	1251.43
West Bengal	4408.14
Assam	294.93
Tripura	20.89
Meghalaya	14.00
Sikkim	3.07
Manipur	17.07
Mizoram	1.34
Total =	49999.97

Say Rs. 500 crores

Productivity and Quality of Pepper

2900. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Pepper cultivated in our country is below the international standards;

(b) whether research is being done to improve the quality of Pepper and its productivity; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) No, Sir. The quality of Pepper cultivated in our country is not below the international standards.

(b) and (c) Research is being done to evolve new high yielidng varieties of Pepper and to standardize cultivation practices. There is more than two fold increase in productivity over a decade due to adoption of improved technologies. The quality of our Pepper is conforming to the standards fixed by the importing countries.

Scope for Promotion of Marine Fishing in Orissa

2901. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the vast scope for promoting marine fishing in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to assist the State Government to tap the fishing potential of that State; and

(c) the scheme drawn up to promote marine fishing in Orissa and other coastal States in the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) The harvestable potential of marine fisheries resources of Orissa has been estimated at 1.44 lakh